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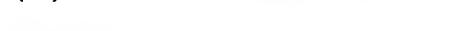
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## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

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## (54) Optical system for a hematology analytical instrument

(57) An optical illuminator assembly for an analytical instrument, such as a clinical hematology or a flow cytometer instrument, and method of aligning the components of the illuminator assembly (130,381) and orienting the illuminator assembly (130,381). The illuminator assembly (130,381) includes a plurality of optical components, such as a laser source (131), e.g., a laser diode (131), optionally a spatial filter (185,190,195), a beam shaping aperture (201A,220A), and a focusing lens (220,387b). The optical components are mounted in or to a housing (121A,3020) and

are internally oriented with respect to the housing (121A,3020) to produce a focussed laser beam output. The housing is in turn mounted on an alignment mechanism (3040) which can move the focussed beam in four degrees of freedom, thereby to direct the focussed beam to a particular location. Thus, a factory alignment and a low cost prealigned optical illuminator assembly is obtained, which can be easily oriented for use in an instrument.

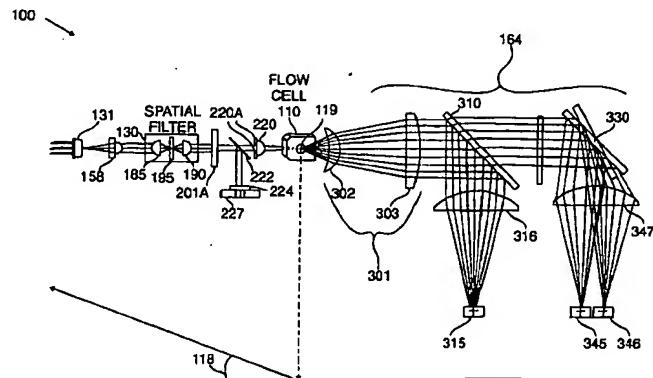


FIG. 1



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 97 11 2321

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	9 September 1999	Müller, T			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention				
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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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